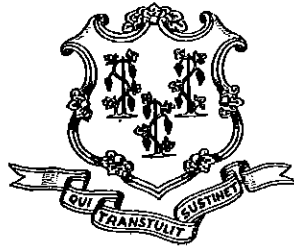


HB 1182



State of Connecticut

SENATE

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March 21, 2011

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Ranking Members and all who serve on the Judiciary Committee. I'm state Senator Toni Harp, I represent the 10th District, and I encourage your **favorable consideration of Proposed Bill 782, An Act Concerning Inmate Medications.**

The language of the Proposed Bill describes how the state Department of Correction, 'shall ensure that all medications prescribed to treat chronic conditions of persons prior to their incarceration be continued.' It further requires that these prescribed medications be administered as prescribed.

What's implicit in this language, while not spelled out, is that for as long as the state has responsibility for these people, the state must meet its obligation to provide for their well-being. The state already provides for the nutritional requirements of its inmates and their personal hygiene. It simply follows that the state follow-through and deliver prescribed pharmaceutical care in a timely manner.

There is no argument that over time, virtually every single one of us in Connecticut has come to rely more and more on the remarkable – and oftentimes lifesaving – advances made in this facet of medical care. These medications can extend life and vastly improve the quality of life for those to whom they are prescribed.

By definition, a doctor has determined the patient needs or would be better off with these medications; the state should not be second-guessing or overruling the treatment of any inmates' doctors. The state must meet it's obligation to provide these medications to those to whom they are prescribed.

Thank you for your consideration of this initiative. I urge your support and approval of the bill.